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observation,
etc.*

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Senior Review Panel

16 October 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: NIO at Large (Mr. Ford)

SUBJECT: The World Environment Likely to Face
US Intelligence and Policymakers in
the 1990s

1. I have reviewed your first cut on "The world environment likely to face US policymaking in the 1990s." I think it is an excellent beginning.

2. You might wish to consider the following:

a. Most of the hardware which will significantly influence the environment in the 1990s is now in service or it is sufficiently well defined in a design stage to be identified and quantified as a factor in influencing events in the 1990s. We can anticipate incremental improvements rather than revolutionary changes in weapons or war-making potential.

b. You might consider a discussion of the implications of the continuing, broadening gap between the advanced nations and the LDCs, especially those in Africa.

c. I wonder if there is any hard intelligence to support the conclusions of paragraph 2? Could this be wishful thinking on the part of the Western world? The Free World is beset with a variety of major economic challenges, social unrest is far more easily fanned into flames in a free society than in a totalitarian society. Is there evidence to indicate that the spirit of nationalism is less strong behind the Iron Curtain than it is in the Free World?

d. Paragraph 3. It would appear logical that Denmark, Belgium and Holland will further restrict their participation in NATO military activities.

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e. Paragraph 5. US influence will seem likely to recede from large areas of the Middle East due to religious intolerance and rabid nationalism. At least tourism should be reduced.

f. Page 6. It would seem a reasonable speculation that the military dictatorship in Panama will be overturned or at least challenged by leftist forces supported by Cuba and Nicaragua. Therefore, reliance on the Panama Canal to provide flexibility for naval forces will be questionable.

g. Page 12. China with its enormously talented population cannot have completed its reorganization in the 1990s but the outlines of its success or failure will be evident. It would seem likely that it will succeed and that its industrious people will accomplish some measure of success similar to that of Hongkong and Singapore. The impact of their economic clout in the late 1990s should be significant throughout the Pacific basin and no doubt in world trade. Should not China's role be examined?

h. Page 13 and 14, Whither France? Will France become the great spoiler? Will it abandon its close ties with Germany and go fishing in Africa or the Far East?

i. There does not seem to be much discussion of the application of science and technology on the intelligence gathering process. Will our computers let us read hostile traffic in real time? Will satellites be able to penetrate cover and concealment, fog and darkness?

j. Food. We had quite a time when oil got scarce a decade or more ago. What would a few years of bad crops in the US and the world do to international policy?

k. It would seem that the Western world has the capability to raise and maintain adequate military forces to sustain its independence. There are mixed signals emerging on our will to accept the sacrifices required. What is the estimate of our political will to stay the course?

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